

MAB 211
29 April 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations Group

FROM : Acting Chief, Abidjan Bureau

SUBJECT : Visit by DCM Designate

Carl Cundiff, the new deputy chief of mission designate, visited the bureau on 28 April 1982 as part of a familiarization tour of all embassy components. Carl is on a one-week tdy in preparation for replacing Gerald Friedman, who is retiring, and will arrive at post in early September. He is presently Economic Counselor at the embassy in Lagos and has also served in Singapore, Saigon and at the OECD in Paris.

Seemingly a relaxed, genial, down-to-earth person, Carl is generally familiar with FBIS from using our product, particularly in Lagos. However, he had never actually seen an FBIS operation and seemed to be interested in and impressed with the way the bureau carries out its mission, asking many questions in touring the facility and meeting the personnel on duty. His first question was about our parentage but he did not seem surprised over our agency affiliation. I explained to him the history of our Kaduna operation and he expressed the opinion that we were lucky to be out of Nigeria. He asked why we had set up in Abidjan and I replied that besides favorable operating and recruiting conditions, good communications [redacted] was a major factor. He asked about [redacted]

[redacted] I also explained the regional nature of our mission and how our limited resources were mostly directed at the most important developments and countries, although all countries were covered to some degree. Thus, while we did a lot of material on Nigeria, we did relatively little on the Ivory Coast. He asked if we were satisfied with embassy support and I replied that we were and believed our relations with the embassy were good. I also noted that FBIS Jordan Bureau had enjoyed good relations with Ambassador Pickering, his current boss for whom he expressed admiration. Finally, I explained in detail our operations and he seemed impressed with the process, commented that the monitors seemed well trained and observed that the physical facility was both impressive and unobtrusive.

My first impression coincides with the scuttlebutt from Lagos that he will be a very easy guy to work with and an asset to the embassy community.

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